

Message Text

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S E C R E T SECTO 05025

NODIS/CHEROKEE

FOR THE PRESIDENT FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XG, XA
SUBJECT: FOUR POWER DISCUSSION ON AFRICA

1. AT MY MEETING THIS MORNING WITH THE BRITISH, FRENCH AND WEST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, WE DISCUSSED THE RHODESIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS INTO MOZAMBIQUE AND ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO REMAIN. OWEN, WHO INITIATED THE DISCUSSION, FELT IT PREFERABLE TO TAKE THE ISSUE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, RATHER THAN TO LEAVE THE MOZAMBICANS TO DEAL WITH THE MATTER MILITARILY, PERHAPS WITH CUBAN ASSISTANCE. HE HAS SENT A MESSAGE TO MOZAMBICAN PRESIDENT MACHEL INFORMING HIM THAT THE U.K. IS READY TO GO TO THE COUNCIL.

2. IN THE COUNCIL, OWEN PROPOSED THAT THE FIVE WESTERN MEMBERS TAKE THE INITIATIVE IN PROPOSING A FORMAL FINDING OF A THREAT TO THE PEACE POSED BY THE ACTION OF THE RHODESIAN REGIME, AND SUPPORT A MANDATORY ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST ANY COUNTRY THAT CONTINUED TO SUPPLY ARMS TO RHODESIA. THE IMPOSITION OF
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PAGE 02 SECTO 05025 011111Z

MANDATORY SANCTIONS WAS, OWEN SAID, A MAJOR STEP FOR THE U.K., BUT AT LEAST A RESOLUTION SO WORKED WOULD LIMIT THE FINDING OF A THREAT TO THE PEACE TO THE PRESENT RHODESIAN REGIME, AND WOULD ALLOW THE SOUTH AFRICANS THE OPPORTUNITY TO WITHDRAW THEIR ARMS SUPPORT FROM RHODESIA GRACEFULLY, BEFORE SANCTIONS AGAINST THEM WERE IMPOSED. OWEN THOUGHT IT

IMPORTANT THAT, IN TAKING SUCH AN INITIATIVE, THE WESTERN MEMBERS MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY WERE NOT NOW PREPARED TO GO ANY FURTHER, AND WOULD VETO MORE EXTREME AFRICAN PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS IF NECESSARY.

3. THE GERMAN AND FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTERS AGREED TO SUPPORT SUCH A BRITISH APPROACH. I SAID THAT, SUBJECT TO YOUR VIEWS, WE WOULD ALSO BE READY TO LEND OUR SUPPORT BUT I COULD NOT SAY CATEGORICALLY THAT WE WOULD DRAW THE LINE ON AN ARMS EMBARGO. THE BRITISH WILL BE CONTACTING THE CANADIANS SEPARATELY, AND BASED IN PART ON THE REPLY THEY RECEIVE FROM MACHEL, WILL BE CONSULTING IN NEW YORK ON NEXT STEPS.

4. OWEN ASKED AND WE ALL AGREED THAT AS A FIRST STEP WE EACH MAKE IMMEDIATE APPROACHES TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS, PRESSING THEM STRONGLY TO ENCOURAGE A RAPID RHODESIAN WITHDRAWAL FROM MOZAMBIQUE, AND LEAVING THE SOUTH AFRICANS IN NO DOUBT ABOUT THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES SHOULD THEY FAIL TO SO PERSUADE THE RHODESIANS. I AM ASKING DEPARTMENT TO DRAFT APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS TO OUR EMBASSY IN SOUTH AFRICA.

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